

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 02204 031513Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 031354Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8945

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 2204

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, GR, BU

SUBJECT: GREEK EMIGRES IN BULGARIA

REF: ATHENS 8505

1. ACCORDING TO RECENT GREEK EMBASSY ESTIMATE, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY SEVEN TO NINE THOUSAND GREEK COMMUNIST EX-GUERRILLAS LIVING IN BULGARIA WHO ESCAPED FROM GREECE IN THE WAKE OF THE 1946-1949 CIVIL WAR. AN UNDETERMINED BUT RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF THESE, MOSTLY THOSE WHO WERE CHILDREN IN 1949, HAVE ACQUIRED BULGARIAN CITIZENSHIP AND ARE MORE OR LESS INTEGRATED INTO BULGARIAN SOCIETY. MOST, HOWEVER, ARE CONSIDERED EXPATRIATES BY THE GREEKS AND STATE-LESS BY THE BULGARIANS.

2. WHILE NO POLICY ON EMIGRATION OF THESE PEOPLE HAS BEEN ARTICULATED BY THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT, GREEK EMBASSY FEELS THAT GOB ALLOWS, POSSIBLY EVEN URGES, THEM TO RETURN TO GREECE.

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PAGE 02 SOFIA 02204 031513Z

3. GREEK EMBASSY HAS HAD MODERATE BUT STEADY STREAM OF

APPLICANTS FROM THIS GROUP OVER PAST SEVERAL YEARS. NUMBER OF APPLICANTS VARIES DEPENDING ON ATTITUDE OF GREEK GOVERNMENT IN POWER AT TIME AND ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY, BUT AVERAGES TWO TO THREE APPLICATIONS PER WEEK. TO DATE, GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS CONSIDERED MEMBERS OF THIS GROUP INELIGIBLE FOR RETURN TO GREECE, AND GREEK EMBASSY HAS ACCEPTED ONLY ONE APPLICATION OVER PAST THREE YEARS.

4. ANOTHER, MUCH SMALLER GROUP OF ETHNIC GREEKS WHICH GREEK EMBASSY FEELS MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY RELAXING OF GREEK IMMIGRATION POLICY ARE THOSE AXIS SYMPATHIZERS WHO FOLLOWED BULGARIAN ARMY BACK TO BULGARIA IN CLOSING DAYS OF WORLD WAR II. MOST OF THESE HAVE DIED OR BEEN ASSIMILATED INTO BULGARIAN SOCIETY. GREEK EMBASSY ESTIMATES ONE TO TWO THOUSAND PERSONS IN THIS CATEGORY MIGHT STILL WISH TO RETURN TO GREECE.
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